

monohydrochloride, and arginine monohydrochloride.

7. (New) The method of Claim 6, wherein said ruminant is fed said feed approximately three weeks immediately prior to parturition.

8. (New) The method of Claim 6, wherein said ruminant is fed said feed in an amount sufficient to result in a urinary pH of said ruminant of 6.5 to 5.5.

9. (New) The method of Claim 5, wherein said neutral hydrochloride of an amino compound is lysine monohydrochloride.

10. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein said ruminant is fed said feed approximately three weeks immediately prior to parturition.

11. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein said ruminant is fed said feed in an amount sufficient to result in a urinary pH of said ruminant of 6.5 to 5.5.

12. (New) The method of Claim 5, wherein said neutral hydrochloride of an amino compound is ornithine monohydrochloride.

13. (New) The method of Claim 12, wherein said ruminant is fed said feed approximately three weeks immediately prior to parturition.

14. (New) The method of Claim 12, wherein said ruminant is fed said feed in an amount sufficient to result in a urinary pH of said ruminant of 6.5 to 5.5.

15. (New) The method of Claim 5, wherein said neutral hydrochloride of an amino compound is arginine monohydrochloride.

16. (New) The method of Claim 15, wherein said ruminant is fed said feed approximately three weeks immediately prior to parturition.

17. (New) The method of Claim 15, wherein said ruminant is fed said feed in an amount sufficient to result in a urinary pH of said ruminant of 6.5 to 5.5.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Applicants have canceled Claims 1-4 and added new Claims 5-17. Support for new Claim 5 can be found on page 10, lines 4-13, and page 17, lines 4-7. Support for Claims 6, 9, 12, and 15 can be found in Claim 2, as originally filed. Support for Claims 7, 10, 13, and 16 can be found on page 10, lines 4-7. Support for Claims 8, 11, 14, and 17 can be found on page 10, lines 8-13.

No new matter has been added. Claims 5-17 are active in this application.

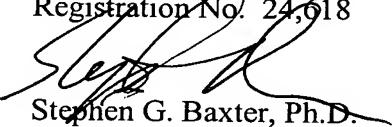
REMARKS

Applicants submit that the application is now ready for examination on the merits, and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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